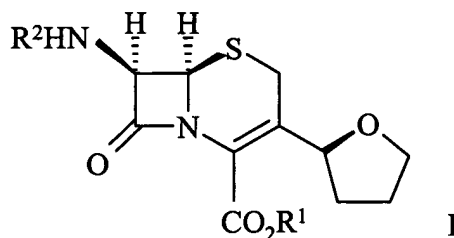


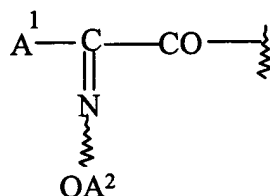
IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~This invention relates to a novel~~ A process for the preparation of 3-cyclic-ether-substituted cephalosporins of formula I



wherein the group CO_2R^1 is a carboxylic acid or a carboxylate salt and R^2 has the formula:

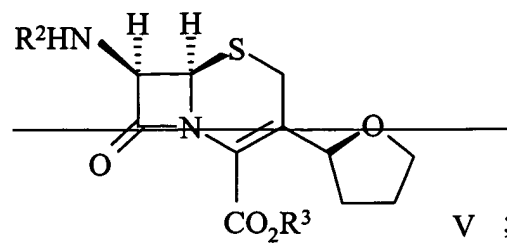
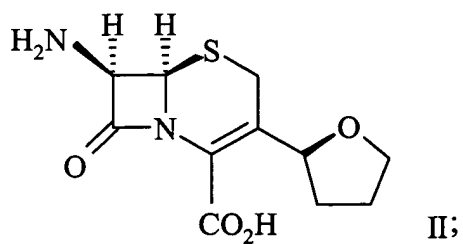


wherein

~~A^1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-10} heteroaryl and C_{1-10} heterocyclyl;~~

~~A^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkyl(CO)(C_{1-6})alkyl-O, HO(CO)(C_{1-6})alkyl, mono-(C_{6-10} aryl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), di-(C_{6-10} aryl)(C_{1-6} alkyl) and tri-(C_{6-10} aryl)(C_{1-6} alkyl);]~~

A^1 and A^2 have the meanings given in the specification by reacting from a zwitterionic compound of formula II[[:]]: or from a compound of formula V:



wherein R^2 is as defined above and R^3 is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl with a compound R^2 L[.]

wherein R^2 is as defined above; and L is di-(C₁₋₆ alkyl)phosphorothioate in the presence of a solvent and a base.

~~The invention also relates to the preparation of the above compounds of formulae~~

~~II and V.~~